

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to the Commissioner For Patents, addressed to the attention of Mail Stop Issue Fee at (703) 746-4000 on June 17, 2004.

  
Tammie B. McFarland 6-17-04  
Date of Signature

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

  
In re Application of: )  
Lail et al. )  
Serial No.: 10/036,027 ) Art Unit: 2874  
Filed: December 26, 2001 ) Examiner: Pak, Sung H.  
Title: Fiber Optic Cable Having a Ripcord ) Notice of  
 ) Allowance Dated: March 27, 2004  
 ) Confirmation No.: 2444  
 )

Sir:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.312**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.312 and subject to the recommendation of the Examiner and the approval of the Commissioner, and without withdrawing the case from issue, kindly enter the following amendment to claim 23. The amendment to claim 23 merely improves the readability of claim 23 and does not change the scope or meaning of the claim.